

- Sub. B4
- c) binds to an anti-gp41 antibody; and
  - d) has no inter-chain disulfide bridges.

12. (New) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the gp160 comprises a gp41 and a gp120 from different HIV strains.

Cont  
A  
Sub. B5  
13. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein all or a portion of the gp160 transmembrane region is deleted.

14. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 11 - 13 having a protein content that comprises more than 50% of the trimer.

15. (New) The composition according to any one of claims 11 - 13 wherein the binding affinity of the trimer to CD4 is equal or greater than the binding affinity of gp120 of an infectious HIV.

16. (New) A vaccine comprising the composition of any one of claims 11 - 13 and an adjuvant.

Sub. B6  
17. (New) A vaccine according to claim 16 wherein the trimer is the only HIV surface antigen in the vaccine.

18. (New) A method of producing the trimer according to any one of claims 11 - 13, the method comprising:

- a) expressing gp160 or fragment thereof;
- b) purifying the gp160;
- c) contacting the gp160 with a reducing agent;